

### CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 through 15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method for treating ~~improving the metal effects and further processing criteria as well as the flexibility of~~ resin coated decorative papers, wherein a solution of one or more alkaline metal salts delaying hardening of the resin is applied, during printing with metal effect inks ~~by gravure printing~~.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt solution is a sodium aluminate solution in water or in a water/extender mixture ~~is applied in a gravure printing method by a fond cylinder or another adequate method onto printed or non-printed standard base paper~~.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 17, wherein sodium aluminate is dissolved in  $> 60^{\circ}\text{C}$  hot water, in order to produce the ~~a mixture in the desired concentration~~.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the water is demineralized water.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and has a proportion of 0.5 up to maximum 5 weight-% related to the solution ~~complete ready-for-print preparation~~.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and wherein a sodium aluminate solution having a pH-value between pH 9 and 14 is used.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and is applied in the ready solution onto the paper by means of a subcoat fond cylinder and gravure printing ~~depending on the fond volume and the machine speed.~~

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 22, wherein an orientation value or a target value of minimum 3 g/m<sup>2</sup> up to maximum 25 g/m<sup>2</sup> wet is observed.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and wherein for effect inks, namely, pearl, silver, and irisation inks, ~~(pearl, silver, and irisation inks,)~~ in higher concentrations on the respective printed decorative papers, a sodium aluminate solution in water or in a water/extender mixture is applied onto the surface of the metallic prints by means of gravure printing with a subcoat fond cylinder.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 24, wherein the sodium aluminate is dissolved in > 60 °C hot water, in order to produce the a mixture in ~~the desired concentration.~~

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The mixture according to claim 25, wherein the water is demineralized water.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 24, wherein the sodium aluminate has a solid contents of 0.5 up to maximum 5 % related to the solution ~~complete ready-for-print preparation~~.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein a sodium aluminate solution having a pH-value between pH 9 and pH 14 is used.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 24, wherein the sodium aluminate in the ready solution is applied onto the paper by means of a subcoat ~~fond~~ cylinder and gravure printing ~~depending on the fond volume and the machine speed~~.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 29, wherein an orientation value or a target value of minimum 3 g/m<sup>2</sup> up to maximum 25 g/m<sup>2</sup> wet is observed.

Claim 31 (Cancelled).

Claim 32 (Cancelled).

Claim 33 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt solution is applied in a gravure printing method by a subcoat cylinder.